



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Rock Island District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Ms. Edna Meester  
and Mr. Harlyn Meester

Date: February 17, 2004

Expires: March 17, 2004

CEMVR-OD-P-455470

Section: 404

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**Joint Public Notice  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

1. Primary Applicant. Ms. Edna Meester and Mr. Harlyn Meester, 1103 Indigo Street, Grundy Center, Iowa 50638.  
Co-Applicant. Farmkids LLC, % Heartland Agricultural Services, Box 189, Baylis, Illinois 62314.  
Agent: Mr. Donn Anderson, 16259 G Avenue, Wellsburg, Iowa 50680.

2. Project Location. Section 36, Township 89 North, Range 18 West, near Wellsburg, Grundy County, Iowa;  
South Beaver Creek.

3. Project Description. The applicants propose to excavate a new channel to bypass an actively eroding stream meander. The purpose of the project is to prevent further bank erosion, channel migration, and loss of agricultural land.

a. Existing Site. The project site is located in the southeast corner of the Meester farm. The channel oxbow has migrated through the property line fence approximately 50 feet into the neighboring farm owned by Farmkids LLC. The existing channel has a streambed width of 22 feet and bank depth of 8 feet from top-of-bank to streambed. Normal stream flow depth is less than 12 inches. The stream on the Meester Farm, including the project site, is natural stream. Immediately downstream of the project site, a segment of the stream was historically channelized. There is an existing grade control structure, at the downstream end of the channelized segment, 1000 feet downstream from the project site. Grass buffer strips are maintained along both sides of the creek throughout the entire reach on both farms. The grass buffer strips are 25 feet wide or wider. The soil in the project area is Soil C133, Colo silty clay loam, channelized, 0-2% slopes. This is a hydric soil. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has determined that the riparian area, within the project site, is non-wetland. The stream oxbow, to be bypassed, is 450 feet long. The stream migration is following an old channel that was historically filled by natural or artificial means. This stream is classified, in the National Wetland Inventory, as 'Riverine, Lower Perennial, Unconsolidated Bottom, Intermittently Exposed'.

b. Proposed Project Work. The excavated channel will be 150 feet long measured on centerline. The east bank of the excavated channel will be 100 feet long, and the west bank will be 190 feet long. Channel bottom width will be 22 feet. Channel depth, at centerline, will be approximately 8 feet from top-of-bank to channel bottom. The channel banks will be graded 2 (horizontal) to 1 (vertical). At the upstream and downstream ends, the channel bottom and banks will be gradually adjusted to blend with the adjoining natural stream. The soil material from the channel excavation will be placed into the bypassed oxbow. The oxbow will be filled to ground surface. The property line fence may then be restored on its original alignment. The graded channel banks, disturbed areas, and filled channel area, on the Meester farm, will be seeded to establish permanent grass cover. The filled channel, on the Farmkids LLC farm, will be seeded to establish a headland along the property line, or returned to crop production. This project will result in a net loss of 300 feet of stream channel, which is 0.15 acre of waters of the United States. No plans have been provided for compensatory mitigation.

4. Agency Review and Where to Reply.

a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

b. State of Iowa. The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Department's opinion that the proposed activity will comply with Iowa's water quality standards (Chapter 61 IAC). The applicant has also applied for authorization of work in the floodplain pursuant to Chapter 455B of the Iowa Code and other applicable state permits. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 900 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address).

5. Historical/Archaeological. The Corps consulted with the State of Iowa geographic information systems (GIS) archeological site and survey databases as maintained by the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa and the State Historical Society of Iowa and current as of August 2003. No archaeological sites or surveys are located in the permit area. The permit is for creek straightening which is confined to the active meanderbelt and has low potential for intact cultural resources. The Corps has determined that no historic properties are affected by issuance of this permit based upon the fact that "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).

6. Endangered Species. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Based upon the information provided and available at this time, our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity would have no effect on federally-listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. While no consultation has been initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at this time, we are further coordinating this application with the FWS and the respective resource agencies through this public notice. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

7. Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

8. Public Interest Review. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

9. Who Should Reply. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

10. Public Hearing Requests. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

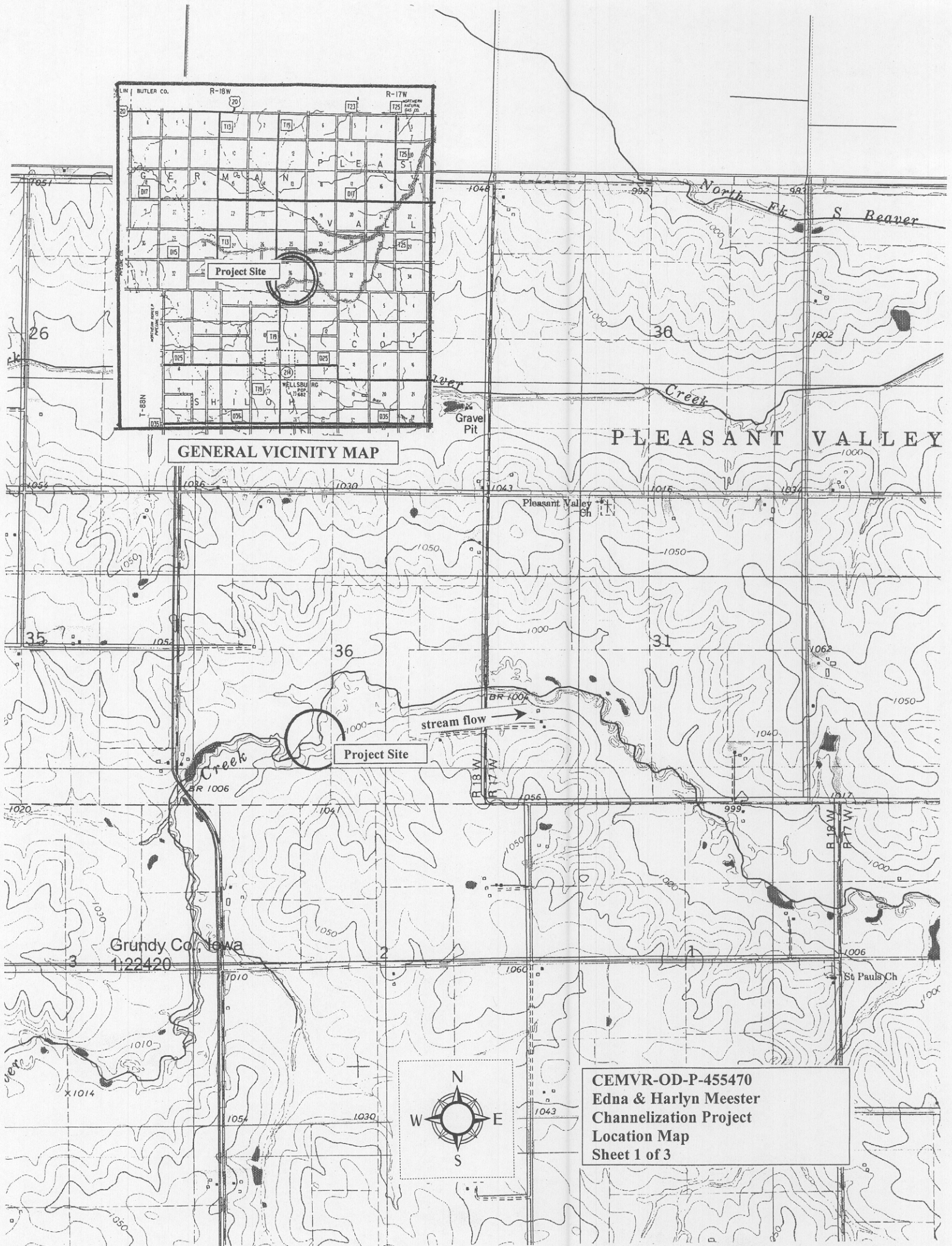
11. Reply to the Corps. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mr. Marlyn W. Schafer (309/794-5377)** may be contacted for additional information (email: [marlyn.schafer@usace.army.mil](mailto:marlyn.schafer@usace.army.mil)).

Attach  
Plan

Marlyn W. Schafer  
Project Manager  
Regulatory Branch

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

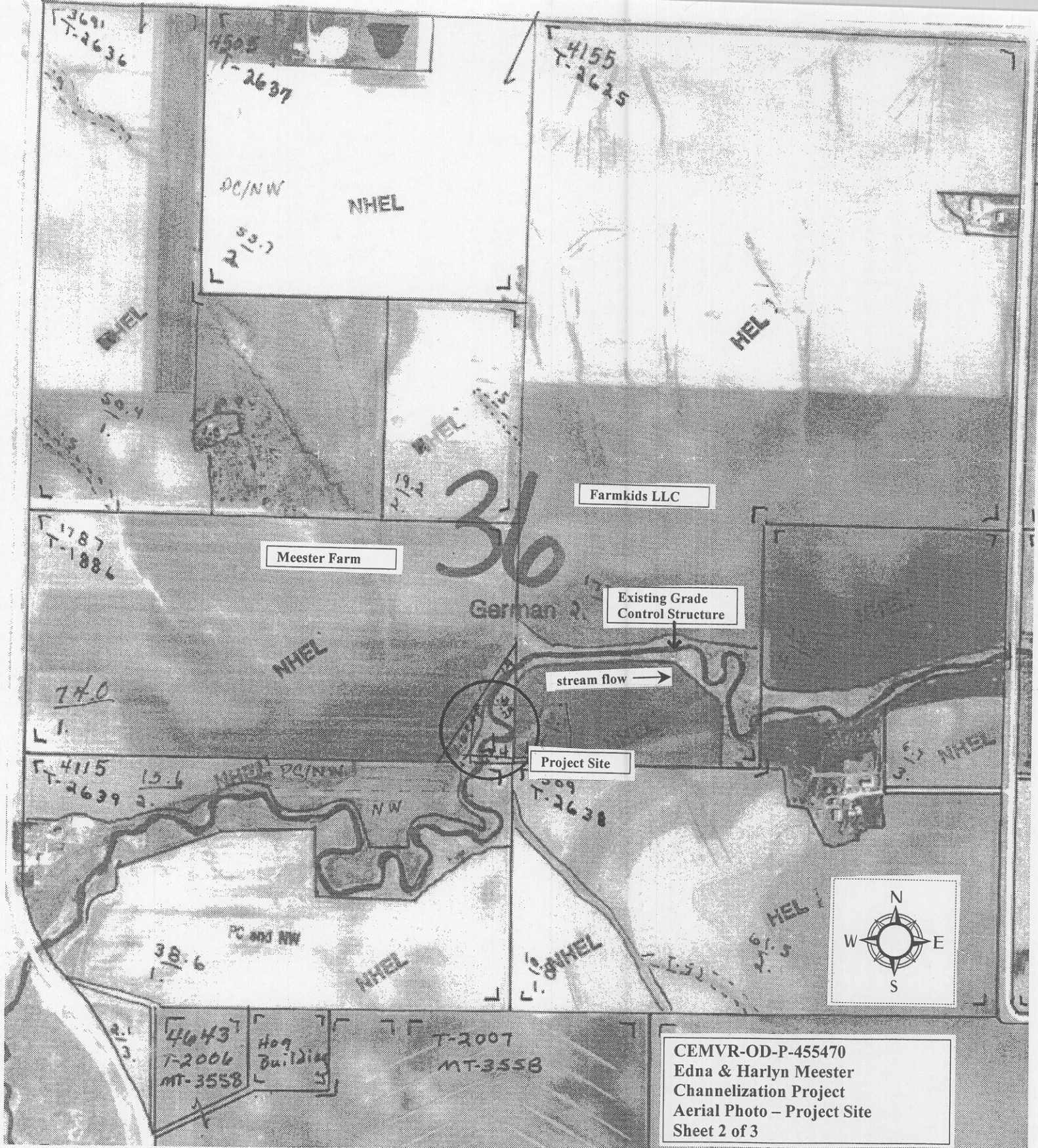
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GENERAL VICINITY MAP

CEMVR-OD-P-455470  
Edna & Harlyn Meester  
Channelization Project  
Location Map  
Sheet 1 of 3



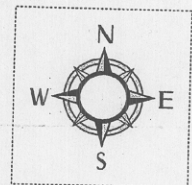
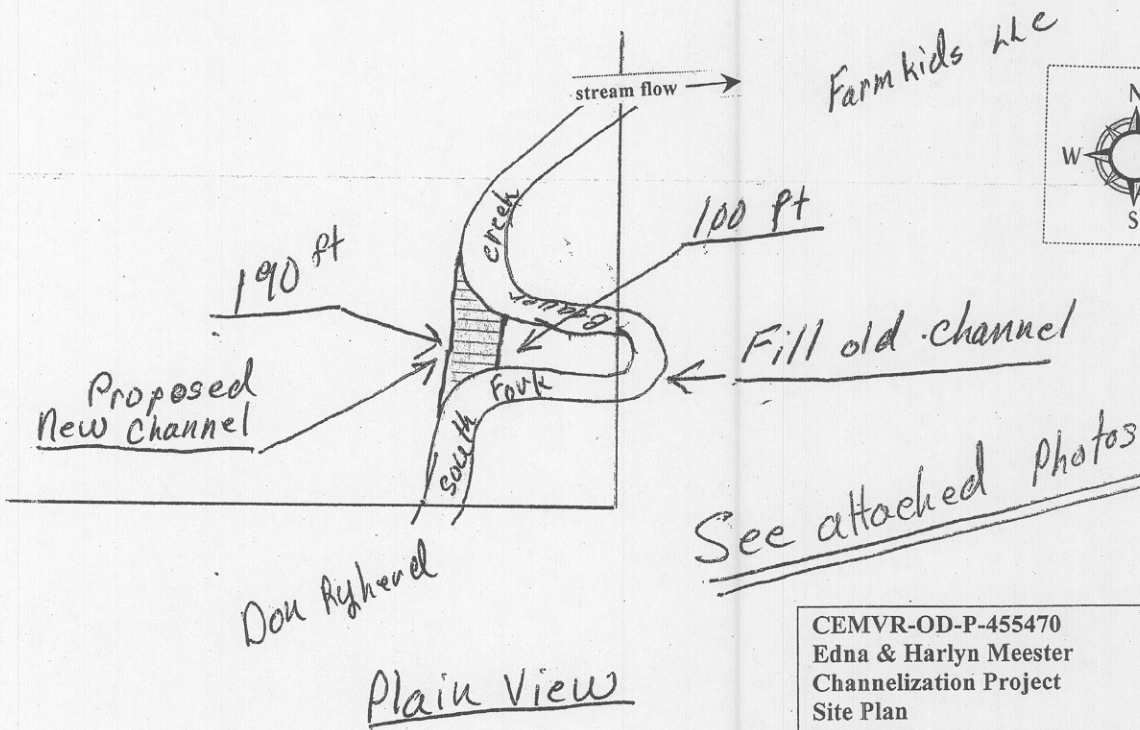
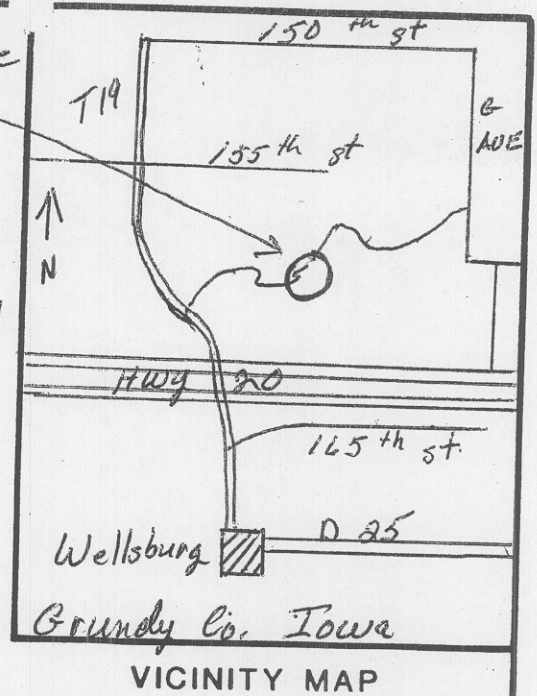
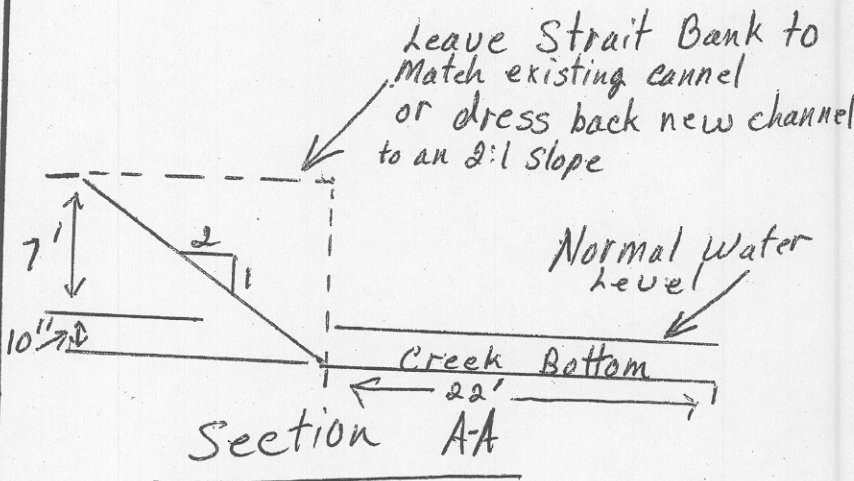


NOT TO SCALE (1995 FLIGHT) GRUNDY COUNTY -CROP YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ E-4

Referene to see amount of erosion



Project Site



CEMVR-OD-P-455470  
Edna & Harlyn Meester  
Channelization Project  
Site Plan  
Sheet 3 of 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:  
New Creek channel  
Fill old channel  
LOCATION:  
South Fork Beaver Creek  
Wellsburg